

climatic events that are the result of processes that can be measured in seasons and even years.

Ocean and climate research undoubtedly support weather forecasting improvement. Similarly, understanding short-term phenomena—weather—has implications for oceans and climate. The bill as amended reflects this understanding.

Thank you, again, to Chair SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for giving us the support to work out a compromise. And I want reiterate my thanks to Mr. BRIDENSTINE for his willingness to work with us and accept changes to the original bill.

Mr. Speaker, weather is not a partisan issue. The American public needs and deserves the best weather forecasting system we can provide.

This bill has broad support in the weather community among research institutions, established businesses, and emerging companies. Supporters include: The American Commercial Space Weather Association, University Consortium for Atmospheric Research, GeoOptics, Planet IQ, and The Weather Coalition.

I particularly want to thank Mr. STEWART, the former Chair of the Environment Subcommittee, whose attitude throughout the process was collaborative and constructive, allowing us to arrive at the bipartisan bill we have before us today. Chair SCHWEIKERT, who took on the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee when Mr. STEWART went to the Committee on Appropriations, has brought with him that same collaborative spirit. And finally, thank you to all of the very hardworking staff on both sides of the aisle.

In summary, this bill does not reallocate money from oceans or climate to weather research, I would not support a bill that did that. What the bill does do is to launch some new management processes designed to give taxpayers a better return on their investment while opening the door to exploring commercial opportunities that could reduce costs at NOAA. This bill can drive meaningful cultural change at NOAA, harvest the benefits of research tied to operational needs, and accomplish that without significant spending increases.

This legislation will make real and measurable improvements in weather research and weather forecasting. I urge my colleagues to support this effort, and to vote yes on this bill.

#### ROSS ARAGON TRIBUTE

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Ross Aragon, a distinguished public servant from Pagosa Springs, CO. Mr. Aragon has served the town of Pagosa Springs for over 38 years, making him the longest serving town trustee and Mayor in the history of Colorado.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Aragon was instrumental in improving the quality of police protection, expanding the town's boundaries by annexing the business corridor, expanding recreational programs and facilities, and establishing the parks and trail systems within the town. Additionally, under his leadership,

the town was included in the Pagosa Fire Protection District as well as the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, resulting in domestic water being made available to town residents.

Not only has he tirelessly served the residents of Pagosa Springs, but he has served as a visionary seeking to expand geothermal energy by using the natural resources of his town. As a result, Mr. Aragon has played a key role in Pagosa Springs supporting and exploring geothermal energy for commercial use. One project that still engages his attention is the Pagosa Springs Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership. Through a unanimous vote of the Town Council led by Mr. Aragon, the town of Pagosa Springs is in partnership with various community residents in developing greenhouses for production of various agricultural products on permaculture principles. The geothermal greenhouse partnership will also serve as an avenue to educate the community on this viable green energy source and its many benefits.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Aragon's tireless service to his community over these many years. I stand with the residents of the town of Pagosa Springs in saluting this remarkable man and congratulating him on a lifetime of service.

#### CELEBRATING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today in celebration of the Rockford Rescue Mission, which is set to celebrate its 50th Anniversary this May.

Mr. Ray Stewart rented a building in 1964 in downtown Rockford in order to establish the Rockford Rescue Mission. There was a sign on the door that read, "All are welcome here. The alcoholic, the addict, the stranger, the sojourner, the pilgrim, the poor. There is hope for all who enter here." This important work continues fifty years later and I am proud of the service they have provided to many constituents in Illinois' Sixteenth Congressional District.

The Rockford Rescue Mission is open twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. They serve Rockford and the surrounding communities by providing prevention and recovery services for addiction, abuse, and destructive relations. They are also the primary provider for meals and shelter in northern Illinois and are able to provide these services with private donations from individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and churches. None of this would be possible without the tremendous help of the over 500 volunteers who contribute nearly 45,000 hours throughout the year.

During the Rockford Rescue Mission's 2013 fiscal year, they served over 160,000 meals, provided over 58,000 beds for lodging, distributed over 159,000 items, facilitated over 10,000 counseling sessions, and served over 2,500 clinic patients.

The City of Rockford and surrounding communities can take pride in the Rockford Res-

cue Mission which gives back to the community so willingly. I would like to congratulate all the volunteers who have helped this organization over the past fifty years and I encourage them to continue their important service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Sixteenth District of Illinois, I wish to express our appreciation for Rockford Rescue Mission's impressive service to the community and their diligent work.

#### RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WISCONSIN 4-H PROGRAM

#### HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's 4-H Youth Development tradition. The very first meeting occurred on October 30th, 1914 in Walworth County in southeastern Wisconsin. 4-H stands for "Head, Heart, Hands and Health." There are 350,000 youth enrolled in my state's 4-H Youth Development program, and the 8th District is home to more than 13,000 of these exceptional young leaders.

4-H's slogan is "Learn by doing", and that is certainly true in Wisconsin. This partnership between the University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county government has a tremendous history of engaging youth to pursue excellence in the areas of leadership, citizenship and life-skills. The program offers youth experiences in large and small animal projects, dairy-related activities, tractor driving contests, different shooting sports and wildlife management. Wisconsin's 4-H Youth Development program has provided youth in rural and urban settings with a unique opportunity develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lifetimes.

As Congressman, I thank the many University of Wisconsin educators and volunteers that have contributed so much to this program over the last 100 years. As a proud Member of the House Agriculture Committee, I encourage residents in Northeast Wisconsin to celebrate this organization's rich history and tradition through the centennial events scheduled during the 2014 calendar year.

#### TRIBUTE TO BJORN BERG

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Bjorn Berg of US Bank in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction,